supplied from the Central Pool to the State Governments for their public distribution systems. The end consumer prices are fixed by the State Governments. The issue prices of the Central Government carry a substantial subsidy.

**Ban on begging**

1190. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. propose to bring about a legislation to ban begging in the country; and

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to ban begging at the declared tourists centres of the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Beggary Prevention Acts have already been enacted by 16 States and 2 Union Territories. A recommendation was made by the Central Advisory Board on Social Defence in its meeting held on 8th September, 1987, for formulation of a Central law on prevention of beggary for the Union Territories, which may also serve as a model for the State Governments.

**Reclamation of saline land**

1191. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, for reclamation of saline lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement such scheme in Orissa, which is badly affected by water logged saline lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) and (b) ICAR has not prepared any scheme, but during the 7th Five Year Plan a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh was launched with a Central outlay of Rs. 21.00 crores to reclaim an area of 1.32 lakh hectares.

Year-wise releases and area reclaimed in the 3 States is as under:

| Year | Amount released (Rs. in lakhs) | Area reclaimed (ha.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1986-87 | 395.50 | 27856 |
| 1987-88 | 200.00 | 29369 |
| 1988-89 | 386.50 | 28063 |

(c) No, Sir.

**Cost over-run of Haldia Fertiliser Project**

1192. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for the cost over-run in the case of Haldia Fertiliser Project; and

(b) the steps taken to complete the project without further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) The project was mechanically completed in November, 1979 after a delay of nearly three years as against the original schedule of October, 1976. As the West Bengal Electricity Board could not supply the promised power, investment had to be made in a gas turbine power plant which was commissioned in January, 1982. However, due to repetitive breakdown of major equipments, the project could not be commissioned and commissioning had to be given up in October,

1986. Delay in its commissioning resulted in higher departmental and financing charges, besides higher commissioning expenses on raw materials, fuel, power etc. over a long period.

(b) Since all attempts at commissioning the project failed, it does not appear feasible to complete the project without further cost escalation. An additional investment of about Rs. 500 crores has been recommended by the foreign consultants appointed by Government for its end-to-end survey for recommissioning it and enabling it to run at the rated capacity.

**Impact of rural development programmes on nutrition standard**

1193. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural development programmes have made any significant impact on the nutrition standard of the people;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard in tribal, rural and urban slum areas; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI): (a) Sustained improvement in nutrition of poor communities can only be achieved as part of overall socio-economic development and is dependent upon factors like increase in income, increased delivery of components of minimum needs programme, social attitudes etc. To the extent rural development programme like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) help in increasing the income of the beneficiary groups, they bring improvement in the nutritional standard of the poor. Foodgrains distributed under NREP/RLEGP also directly help in improving the nutritional level of the poor who work on these programmes.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Nutrition Foundation of India has conducted some studies of nutrition standards of poor communities in 7 regions of the country in tribal, rural and urban slum areas.

(c) The main findings of the studies undertaken by the Nutrition Foundation of India are given in statement enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 64]

**Foreign Collaborations for import of seeds**

1194. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister to AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Indian companies/firms whose proposals had been approved for foreign collaborations since the new seed policy was announced on 16th September, 1988 and on what terms and conditions;

(b) what are the names of the companies referred to above who had applied for seed import licences after approval of foreign collaborations, alongwith the names/kinds of seeds, country of origin, quantity and value and the details of their import approvals, companywise and the pending proposals in this regard; and

(c) what are the names of the various State Government Seed Corporations which had also applied for import licences for seed import along with the names of the seeds and the quantity and the country of origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) A Statement is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 65]